

REMARKS

Claims 1-24 and 26-27 stand rejected. Claim 26 is amended. Claims 26 and 28-41 are pending.

Support for the amendment and the new claims is found in the application as originally filed, including the figures. For instance, see Figures 23 and 24 which show the perimeter of the vacuum device adjacent the skin of the patient, and a portion inward of the perimeter having a convex outer surface and a concave inner surface. No new matter is added.

The claim amendments are made without prejudice to the Applicant filing one or more continuation or divisional applications with one or more of the original claims.

Claim 26 is amended to recite, among other things, the vacuum device has a perimeter portion sized and shaped to be positioned against a portion of a patient's body and shell portion disposed inward of the perimeter portion, the shell portion having a generally convex outer surface and a generally concave inner surface. Claim 26 also recites the multicomponent device for providing access through the shell portion.

It is respectfully urged that the art of record does not teach or suggest the subject matter of Claim 26, or the claims depending from Claim 26.

The amendments made in this response do not indicate agreement with the Examiner's rejection, and the Applicant reserves the right to file one or more continuation application with claims previously presented.

Respectfully submitted,

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